

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Comments Sought on Planned Rules Governing Applications for a Site Permit for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System.

Subject of Rule. The Environmental Quality Board requests comments on its planned adoption of rules governing the review of site permit applications for Large Wind Energy Conversion Systems. A Large Wind Energy Conversion System or LWECS means any combination of wind energy conversion systems with a combined nameplate capacity of 5,000 kilowatts or more. The rules will address the following: (1) criteria that the board shall use to designate LWECS sites; (2) contents of a site permit application for LWECS including turbine type and design; engineering and operational design analysis; cost analysis; and environmental analysis of the proposed site; (3) site permit conditions for LWECS construction, operation, maintenance and site restoration; (4) procedures that the board will follow in acting on an application for a LWECS; including procedures for notification to the public of the application and for participation by the public in the permit process; (5) requirements for environmental review of the LWECS; (6) procedures for revocation or suspension of a site permit when violations of the permit or other requirements occur; (7) payment of fees for the necessary and reasonable costs of the board in acting on a permit application.

Persons Affected. The rules would affect persons, businesses, developers, and other organizations that undertake the development of Large Wind Energy Conversion Systems with a combined nameplate capacity of 5,000 kilowatts or more; and citizens, local governments and organizations concerned about

the environmental impacts of LWECS projects and the use of the wind resource.

Statutory Authority. *Minnesota Statutes* section 116C.695 authorizes the board to adopt rules governing the consideration of an application for a site permit for an LWECS.

Public Comment. Interested persons or groups may submit comments or information on this planned rule in writing or orally until 4:30 p.m. on April 6, 2001. The board has not yet prepared a draft of the planned rules. Persons interested in obtaining a copy of the proposed rules when they are available, should contact Mr. Hartman at the address below or check the EQB web site at:

www.mnplan.state.mn.us/eqb/wind

Written or oral comments, questions, and requests for more information on this planned rule should be addressed to:

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Comments submitted in response to this notice will not be included in the formal rulemaking record when a proceeding to adopt a rule is started.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Hugoson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "G".

Gene Hugoson, Chair

Environmental Quality Board

February 7, 2001